To: Travers, David[Travers.David@epa.gov]
From: Workman, Rosemary
Sent: Thur 1/16/2014 2:56:24 PM
Subject: RE: Information in response to the earlier ABC News Request

No problem.

From: Travers, David
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Workman, Rosemary
Subject: RE: Information in response to the earlier ABC News Request

Let's sit on this for now…btw, SDWIS does have lat/long data on intakes and wells, we just don't provide these data to the public.

From: Workman, Rosemary
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 4:21 PM
To: Travers, David
Subject: Information in response to the earlier ABC News Request
Importance: High

David – Please see the below information regarding the earlier ABC News request. Note that there is no simple answer to the question and from our research it appears that OEI is perhaps in the best position to contribute to an EPA response should the public information officers determine that a response is appropriate. Please review and let us know if the below is suitable to share with Maria. Thanks, Rosemary

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ABC Question

In light of the current chemical leak in WV, how vulnerable is our nation's water supply to something like this happening elsewhere? How many chemical plants border drinking water sources nationwide?

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EPA Data Sources for Chemicals/DW Sources

EPA collects chemical facility information under a number of programs, such as TRI, RMP, TSCA, RCRA and potentially SSTS and others. See below for short descriptions of these programs. EPA's Facility Registry Service (FRS) managed by OEI provides comprehensive information about facilities subject to environmental regulations (air, water, and waste) or of environmental interest, but does not necessarily contain chemicals data. For drinking water facilities, SDWIS typically has NOT dealt with intake locations or individual wellhead locations. SDWIS location information is usually based on the treatment facility address, which may be some distance (up to several miles) from the plant's water intake location.

To answer ABC's question, OEI could aggregate chemicals data for plants from across multiple programs, and then do a spatial analysis against all of the surface intakes, either by simple proximity or by upstream/downstream analysis, provided that data were available and of sufficient quality. However, this analysis is not something we have at the ready in the short term, and would require significant QC as well as selection of the chemicals of concern. Note that not all chemicals used within the United States may be captured in such an analysis if not regulated by EPA (e.g., possibly MCHM).

WSD recommends that OEI and the relevant EPA program offices be consulted should EPA public affairs opt to respond to ABC's question. The OEI POCs we spoke with are David Smith (566-0797) and Ana Greene (566-2132).

EPA Data Source Descriptions

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI): TRI tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. U.S. facilities in different industry sectors must report annually how much of each chemical is released to the environment and/or managed through recycling, energy recovery and treatment.

Risk Management Plan (RMP): Facilities that produce, handle, process, distribute, or store certain chemicals are required to develop a Risk Management Program, prepare a Risk Management Plan (RMP), and submit the RMP to EPA. This information helps local fire, police, and emergency response personnel (who must prepare for and respond to chemical accidents), and is useful to citizens in understanding the chemical hazards in communities.

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA): The TSCA of 1976 provides EPA with authority to require reporting, record-keeping and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures. TSCA addresses the production, importation, use, and disposal of specific chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, radon and lead-based paint.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information (RCRAInfo): Hazardous waste information is contained in RCRAInfo, a national program management and inventory system about hazardous waste handlers. In general, all generators, transporters, treaters, storers, and disposers of hazardous waste are required to provide information about their activities to state environmental agencies. These agencies, in turn pass on the information to regional and national EPA offices.

Section Seven Tracking System (SSTS): SSTS is the only automated system that EPA uses to track pesticide producing establishments and the amount of pesticides they produce. SSTS records the registration of new establishments and records pesticide production at each establishment. It is a repository for information on the establishments that produce pesticides.

Facility Registry Service (FRS): EPA's FRS is a centrally managed database that provides comprehensive information about facilities subject to environmental regulations (air, water, and waste) or of environmental interest. Note that the FRS does have core facility information for the programs listed above and others, but does not necessarily contain chemicals data.

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS): The SDWIS contains information about public water systems and their violations of EPA's drinking water regulations, as reported to EPA by the states.